FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONTINUE FREQUENT MEETINGS

Military Committee Meets

PY160113Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0035 GMT 16 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)--Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla at 2100 left the meeting of the Military Committee which began at the Condor Building, headquarters of the Argentine Air Force, at 1700. The three commanders in chief of the armed forces are now meeting as the military junta.

Military Junta Meets

PY160114Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0050 GMT 16 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (TELAM)--The meeting of the military junta ended at 2130. The body had been meeting at the headquarters of the Argentine Air Force since 2100 when the meeting of the Military Committee ended.

Military Committee Meets Again

PY161723Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1648 GMT 16 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Dec (TELAM)--The meeting of the Military Committee, which was held at air force headquarters, concluded just after 1300. The session lasted for approximately 3 hours. The three commanders in chief, the president and Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor attended the meeting.

AMBASSADOR TO CHILE RETURNS TO SANTIAGO

PY151658Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1614 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)--Hugo Miatello, Argentine ambassador to Chile, returned today to his diplomatic post, a few hours before the Military Committee was to meet again for the fifth consecutive day to continue studying the situation on the border dispute in the south, after the meagre results of the Tuesday meeting between Foreign Ministers Carlos Pastor and Hernan Cubillos. Miatello departed unexpectedly from metropolitian airport in an Aerolineas Argentinas plane which took off at 1200 and will make stopovers in Cordoba and Mendoza before landing in Santiago. Some sources reported that this morning Miatello received final instructions regarding the Beagle dispute which were drawn up yesterday by the Military Committee during its meeting at navy headquarters.

UN AMBASSADOR SUBMITS NOTE ON DISPUTE TO SECURITY COUNCIL

PY161426Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1355 GMT 16 Dec 78 PY

[Text] United Nations, 16 Dec (TELAM)--An Argentine document submitted to the UN Security Council with the intention of pointing out the difficulties Chile is causing in the negotiations to seek a solution to the border dispute in the Beagle Channel area was included in ASSOCIATED PRESS dispatches. The dispatch said:

Enrique J. Ros, Argentine ambassador to the United Nations, submitted an informative note last night, containing background data regarding the Chilean-Argentine territorial dispute, to Baron Rudiger von Wechman, president of the Un Security Council.

The note, a copy of which was obtained by AP, referred to the territorial dispute and indicates that the tense situation has been created due to the lack of an adequate reply from the Chilean Government to the many efforts made by the Argentine Government in seeking a solution through negotiation of the dispute regarding the definitive delimitation of jurisdictions in the southern area of the American Continent--a region of vital importance for maritime communication between two oceans, and for international security. This conduct regarding the negotiations has coincided with a series of unilateral measures and acts by the Chilean Government which have also contributed toward the current state of affairs, the note continues.

Later on, the note refers to the numerous efforts made by the Argentine Government in seeking a solution to the dispute. In the first place, it mentions the Puerto Montt Act, the result of negotiations between the Chilean and Argentine presidents on 20 February 1978. This treaty...opportunely permitted the emergence of some principles for an agreement regarding the dispute about the delimitation of jurisdictions. These principles could not be formalized due to the negative attitude of Chile, the note indicates.

The note then says that the Chilean Government also rejected the suggestion by a working group to convene another working group to continue the negotiations system agreed upon on 20 February 1978.

The letter continues by referring to the meeting on last 12 December between the foreign ministers of the two countries, during which both parties reportedly accepted the mediation of the Holy See in the conflict. In this connection is is said that Chile took a stand which hindered the reaching of the agreements necessary for the mediator to begin his task by deviating from the framework established in notes exchanged earlier between the presidents and foreign ministers of the two countries.

After quoting the text of an official Argentine communique, issued on 13 December after the end of those negotiations, the ambassador says he believes it is necessary to stress again that the negotiation process described has also been hampered by a number of unilateral measures and acts by the Chilean Government, and that all these circumstances have created a situation of tension which, if prolonged, might even endanger international peace and security.

The final paragraphs of the note say that the Argentine Government believes that the security council, which is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, should be fully informed about the development of the situation. The ambassador concludes by requesting that the letter be urgently distributed as an official security council document.

Usually reliable UN sources have stated that the informative note is not part of a routine procedure, but that it rather indicates the existence of an extremely serious situation.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER OPTIMISTIC ON BEAGLE PROBLEM

PY161904Y Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Dec 78 p 1 PY

[Text] Cordoba--Speaking in this city, where he came to preside over the graduation ceremony of the training course for 250 corporals at the air force noncommissioned officers school, Lt Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti, commander of the Argentine Air Force, said that the problem with Chile should not be allowed to go on, but should be solved quickly. Approached by newsmen, General Agosti said in reference to the conflict with Chile that the Military Committee will continue studying the situation.

Asked about the position the Argentine Government would adopt if the neighboring country insists on submitting the case to the International Court of The Hague, he said that "it will be seen in due course. I cannot make any advance statement now." He added that the situation is not so difficult, and he feels optimistic about its solution.

BOMB EXPLOSION AT CHILEAN CONSULATE

PY151548Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1512 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Comodoro Rivadavia, 15 Dec (TELAM)--The command of the 9th infantry brigade issued a communique concerning an attack which was perpetrated early this morning when a bomb exploded in front of the Chilean Consulate building in Comodoro Rivadavia. The text of the communique states:

The command of subzone No 53 repudiates the attack perpetrated in Comodoro Rivadavia against the consulate of the Republic of Chile. This is a deplorable deed which is completely detrimental to the official negotiations being carried out by Argentina to achieve, through peaceful means, a definitive agreement to the dispute which led to the negotiations between the two parties. In this regard, the command of subzone No 53 urges the population to maintain a calm and prudent attitude, since this deed only benefits those who strive to provoke aggressions and create unrest which is opposed to the peaceful attitude of the Argentine Government.

UCR PRESIDENT BALBIN ARRESTED, RELEASED ON VIDELA'S ORDERS

Arrested at Party Dinner

PY151335Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1045 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)--Ricardo Balbin, president of the Radical Civic Union party, and other party leaders were still under arrest this morning at the Vicente Lopez police district. Party sources said that they were arrested last night when Balbin was about to deliver a speech at a year's end dinner given by the Vicente Lopez section of the party and attended by 200 persons.

Videla Orders Balbin's Release

PY151339Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1256 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Text] The release of Ricardo Balbin, president of the Radical Civic Union [UCR] party was ordered today by President Jorge Videla. Balbin was arrested last night by police and army personnel while he was addressing a partisan gathering in the city of Vicente Lopez.

Balbin Terms Arrest 'Scandalous'

PY151342Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1245 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)--Ricardo Balbin, president of the national committee of the Radical Civic Union [UCR], said today that his arrest, together with other leaders of his party, in a restaurant in the township of Vicente Lopez was a "scandalous military proceeding." Balbin made his remark when he was released at 0930 after having been detained for about 8 hours. He added jokingly that he was detained while he was explaining his "agreement with the government regarding its handling of matters with Chile."

PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS, RELATIONS WITH CHURCH

PY160106Y La Paz Radio Panamericana a Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 78 PY

[Text] The decree law establishing the guidelines for the elections which will be held on the first Sunday of July 1979 will be released in the first half of January, Gen David Padilla Arancibia, president of the military junta, has announced.

Gen Padilla held a brief talk with journalists at Miraflores headquarters today and answered several questions. He confirmed his prior statements that political parties are fully entitled to participate in preelectoral arrangements by organizing themselves and carrying out whatever plans they consider necessary. General Padilla went on to indicate that he is aware of foreign interference and financing, but added that this is very difficult to prove. He was discussing reports that this had happened during the latest elections.

The chief of state also said that relations between his government and the church are absolutely normal. He had been asked about the reasons which prompted top church leaders to visit him at government house. In this regard, he said that the visit was formal and allowed the church leaders to present their proposals and requests. One of these proposals dealt with the operation of the Charitas organization in the country and the financial support this organization will receive next year. He concluded by announcing that a meeting with Venezuelan Government officials will be held in Santa Cruz next Monday to discuss the implementation of the Andean auto program in Bolivia.

LABOR CONFEDERATION CALLS GENERAL STRIKE FOR 19 DECEMBER

PY160140Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 78 PY

[Text] The confederation of railroad, airport, telephone, power and related branches has decreed a general strike which will begin at 0000 on Tuesday 19 December. The confederation indicated that this drastic decision is motivated by the lack of government attention to social and economic demands presented quite some time ago.

The leaders of the confederation indicated that they have been unable to meet with the president of the military junta, whom they were going to brief on the background of the negotiations which did not have a happy outcome. The confederation demanded that the state pay the 55,182,000 Bolivian pesos it owes the Bolivian railways enterprise. They also demanded a solution to the problems which have cropped up at La Paz telephone company, a wage increase, the economic demands of the power and light company of Oruro, the autonomy of associated unions and the return of their assets, and the immediate delivery of funds budgeted for the purchase of Christmas gifts for the children of railroad workers.

In a telegram sent by confederation headquarters in La Paz, the organization gave notice to all federations and unions of the country, and the Interior, Finance and Transport ministries. If all these problems are not solved by Monday midnight, the entire railroad system of the country will be paralyzed. The same will happen to air transportation because the airports will close, and attention to the public will cease at the telephone company, although services will continue normally.

BRAZIL WILLING TO MEDIATE IN BEAGLE DISPUTE

PY161839Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Dec 78 p 4 PY

[Text] Col Ruben Ludfing, President Ernesto Geisel's spokesman, said in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, referring to the border dispute between Argentina and Chile: "Brazil is following the developments with concern and is willing to mediate in order to prevent them from becoming more serious." The Brazilian offer came only 1 day after the Brazilian Foreign Ministry made "a fervent appeal" to the two governments to seek a peaceful solution to the problem.

Brazilian military analysts, for their part, stated yesterday that they find the situation rather delicate, according to a report by the EFE news agency from Rio de Janeiro, which adds that they do not rule out "the possibility that the situation may lead, sooner than expected, to a conflict between the two countries." FOLHA DE SAO PAULO expressed the opinion that a conflict of that nature would have repercussions for the whole region.

PROPERTY OF GOVERNOR-ELECT MALUF'S RELATIVES SEIZED

PY151511Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Summary] Just 17 days before it expires, Institutional Act No 5 was used once more by President Ernesto Geisel to confiscate all properties belonging to the wife and father-in-law of Sao Paulo Governor-elect Paulo Maluf. They were shareholders in the Lutfalla Company which, after obtaining a 150-million-cruzeiros loan from the National Development Bank, transferred all its assets. The presidential decree also invalidated all its assets. The presidential decree also invalidated all property transfers made by the Lutfalla Company after 5 December 1974.

PAPER COMMENTS ON HEAD OF CIVILIAN HOUSEHOLD

PY152115Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Dec 78 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page by V.B.C.: "Golbery Accepts Invitation To Stay on as Civilian Household Chief"]

[Excerpt] With the safety margin possible in the present situation, it is now certain that General Figueiredo has already had a frank talk with General Golbery to insure that he will continue as chief of the civilian household. This is a position which can guarantee the solid continuity of the outgoing and incoming administrations. General Figueiredo will be likely to encourage General Golbery's more active participation in his government by relieving him of some bureaucratic duties, which will be explicitly assigned to other people.

But the main stage on which General Golbery will perform will be the political stage, where he will give continuity and guidance to an ongoing program. Since he has become accustomed to working behind the scenes, protected by caution and prudence, it will require cleverness to recognize his actions from the outside. But General Golbery, who began pushing for a political liberalization and then pulled back in favor of a hard line to defend the government, would certainly like to write in his memoirs a chapter showing his effective and decisive participation in the formulation and implementation of the plan for full democratic restoration.

CUBILLOS BRIEFS GOVERNMENT MEETING ON BEAGLE NEGOTIATIONS

PY151304Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos explained in detail the present situation of the Chilean-Argentine negotiations during a meeting attended by all ranking generals, admirals, ministers and under secretaries. The meeting was presided over by President Augusto Pinochet. Also present were all junta members and, for the first time, the commanders of those units specialized in guerrilla warfare. The meeting was held in room No 4 of the Diego Portales Building, and it lasted for 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Previously, general Pinochet had stated that this was an ordinary end-of-the-year informative meeting. At the end of the meeting, Foreign Minister Cubillos stated that he had explained in detail the present Argentine-Chilean situation. Furthermore, Gen Rene Vidal, secretary general of the government, stated that Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez reported on the domestic situation, and Labor Minister Vasco Costa reported on matters related to the boycott agreed upon by the Inter-American Regional Labor Organization [ORIT]. All government officials having the rank of minister also attended this meeting.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STUDIES U.S. INITIATIVE IN BEAGLE DISPUTE

PY151711Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Diplomatic circles view the U.S. initiative to maintain peace in Latin America and particularly in the southern cone as a positive step. Sources close to the Chilean Foreign Ministry have reported that this government office is carefully studying the U.S. proposal that the OAS cooperate in the search for a solution of the border dispute with Argentina.

Observers stated that they regret that Argentina apparently lacks a valid spokesman. They believe the U.S. proposal is positive, since there is a possibility that the OAS will be able to force Argentina to negotiate under international law. The Argentine Government deviated from this international practice when it rejected the British court decision on the Beagle Channel. Furthermore, now that a mediator has been found, Argentina proposes several conditions which will prevent any agreement. These same sources noted that Argentina tried to limit the mediator's actions and proposed conditions which were unacceptable to Chile. These demands consisted of negotiating the British court decision and altering the 1881 border treaty.

They added that the Argentine behavior is the result of a chaotic domestic situation, reflected in a strong economic recession brought on by a high level of inflation, unemployment and an increase in the value of the dollar. Moreover, they noted that the problem with Chile has been exaggerated, leading the Argentine people to a war psychosis, with the objective of diverting their attention with an alleged war to ease the domestic situation.

Observers asserted that in view of this situation, Chile has resorted to legal arguments, not bargaining on matters pertaining to national security, but trying to offer all possible paths leading to a peaceful solution of the controversy. This assertion is supported by the fact that on 2 November, after it was obvious that the direct negotiations had failed, Chile immediately proposed the mediation of the International Court or a third party.

It seems that some Argentines believe that Chile is not in a position to make demands, but they are wrong. The unity of thought prevailing in Chile among civilians, military officers and law experts was clearly shown when Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos asserted that Chile supports the validity of international agreements, but it is not willing to negotiate its sovereignty or its honor.

Argentina, however, has the so-called Military Committee, which is the center of political and military power. All government decisions must be approved by this entity, thus greatly restricting the actions of the Argentine foreign minister, who is not a spokesman capable of negotiating and making proposals, but rather a valuable but not decisive element in the enforcement of policies.

FOREIGN MINISTRY THANKS BRAZIL FOR NOTE ON BEAGLE DISPUTE

FY161504Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Dec 78 FY

[Note issued by the Chilean Foreign Ministry thanking the Brazilian Government for its concern with the Argentine-Chilean situation]

[Text] The Chilean Government deeply appreciates the concern expressed by the Brazilian Government, since this reflects the noble spirit of peace and brotherhood among Latin American nations which is also harbored by Chile.

Precisely because Chile is determined to live in peace, with respect for the sovereignty of all nations to promote the development of all Latin American countries through independence, freedom and individual rights, it has not hesitated to seek a peaceful solution to the dispute with Argentina. With this purpose in mind, Chile agreed to hold direct negotiations at different levels, which unfortunately failed to produce an agreement within the framework established in the treaties and international decisions binding on Chile and Argentina.

Furthermore, despite treaties in force between the two countries which dictate an obligatory judicial solution of controversies, Chile proposed as an alternative, while reserving its rights, a legal approach: to appeal to the mediation of a friendly government chosen by common agreement. In view of this, the Chilean Government took the initiative and proposed a meeting between both countries' foreign ministers. This meeting was held in Buenos Aires on 12 December. Despite an agreement on the selection of the mediator and on the framework within which this mediation would be carried out, a final settlement could not be achieved because Argentina's demands on basic issues distorted the functions of the mediator and the extent of the mediation itself.

The Brazilian Government may rest assured that the Chilean Government will be loyal to its principle of achieving a peaceful solution to international controversies, and that it will not use force to achieve its only objective: the peaceful coexistence of the large family of Latin American nations, with respect for international rights and principles.

NAVY CHIEF DISMISSES WAR POSSIBILITY

FY151806Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1647 GMT 15 Dec 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 15 Dec (AFP)--Chilean Navy commander Jose Toribio Merino dismissed here today the possibility of war between Chile and Argentina as a result of the Beagle Channel dispute. He said: I do not believe there will be a war, because people become more intelligent when they are involved in the matter of having to decide whether to go to war or not.

Admiral Merino, who is also a member of the government military junta, praised the level of training of Chilean Navy. He remarked: "We are carrying out good and very life-like maneuvers. This training is very helpful, because the navy is hardened by this training and therefore will be in better condition to defend the fatherland if it is attacked." He said that the Chilean Navy is the best in Latin America.

Chile and Argentina are involved in a 100-year-old border dispute in the Beagle Channel, located in the southern part of Latin America.

RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON UNSCHEDULED FLIGHTS

PY151544Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1420 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)--It has been learned here from well-informed sources that Chilean aviation authorities have imposed restrictions on all Chilean airspace for all unscheduled flights, beginning at 0000 today. The measure affects all flights other than scheduled airlines and stipulates that anyone who wishes to enter the airspace of that country will have to request permission at least 1 hour before beginning the flight and wait for a reply. Until yesterday, airplanes which made unscheduled flights only had to send a message stating the type of airplane and the airport of destination, without having to wait for any reply.

RADIO REPORTS SITUATION SURROUNDING DISPUTE

PY161655Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Chileans must maintain their usual calm in times of trouble. Chilean authorities have reported to the population that the means to achieve a peaceful solution to the border dispute between Chile and Argentina have not been exhausted. But from the other side of the Andes, there are many attitudes and voices which are in contrast with the calm prevailing in Chile.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources have reported that U.S. President Jimmy Carter has expressed his concern about the situation and has even reportedly offered his mediation. It is reported that this proposal has been submitted to the two parties involved in the issue. The same sources report that the Chilean answer is already on its way.

However, Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos has said he lacks any official information in this regard. He nevertheless urged Chileans to trust their government authorities.

42 ARRESTED PRIOR TO UNAUTHORIZED RALLY

PY152353Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2230 GMT 15 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 15 Dec (ANSA)--Forty-two persons were arrested in this city last night in the neighborhood of Pedro Aguirre Cerda Square, a few blocks from downtown Santiago, where an unauthorized rally of union leaders was to be held. The rally was aimed at showing solidarity toward union leaders whom some press media had described as antipatriotic because of their relation with international labor organizations which decreed a trade boycott against Chile. The rally had been organized by unions contrary to the labor, social and economic policy of Gen Augusto Pinochet's government.

FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCES PLANNED RELATIONS WITH PRC

PA172030Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Dec 78 PA

[Interview with Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas; date, place not given--recorded]

[Text] Colombia and the People's Republic of China [PRC] initiated their first high-level contacts designed to culminate in the establishment of relations in October of this year, Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas has disclosed. The high-ranking Colombian official said that negotiations will continue through the respective delegations accredited with the United Nations.

The foreign minister added: When I visited the United Nations last October, I talked personally with the PRC ambassador in New York in order to initiate the appropriate negotiations to establish bilateral relations. Those negotiations have continued at the United Nations between the Colombian mission and the PRC mission. It is my hope that those negotiations will soon result in the establishment of diplomatic and commercial relations with the PRC Government. In other words, the steps are already being taken, and I hope that they will have results, that they will crystallize within a short time.

[Question] How do you interpret the decision of the United States to establish relations with the PRC?

[Answer] I do not believe that I can judge this from the U.S. viewpoint, but from the Colombian viewpoint. We had already commented on and initiated the process, as I have said, in October.

DEVELOPMENT MINISTER ON POSSIBLE TRADE RELATIONS WITH PRC

PA172030Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Dec 78 PA

[Interview with Colombian Development Minister Gilberto Echeverry Mejia; date, place not given--recorded]

[Text] Development Minister Gilberto Echeverry Mejia has disclosed that Colombia and the People's Republic of China [PRC] will establish commercial relations by mid-1979. The high-ranking official made this announcement to the "Supernoticias" [news program], noting the importance of the new market which is being opened to Colombian products.

[Echeverry] If President Carter has officially established relations with the PRC and broken relations with Taiwan, why should Colombia not have the right to reach such an important market? For this reason, and because it is the policy of the president to establish relations with the PRC, the government has decided that the directors of PROEXPO [Export Promotion Fund] and INCOMEX [Foreign Trade Institute] should organize a private mission to go to the PRC in April or May to see what important steps can be taken for the future of Colombian exports and also to purchase raw material.

[Question] Mr Minister, which of our country's products could be marketted in the PRC?

[Answer] In a market of 1 billion inhabitants, any product could be sold. They require food, textiles, cigarettes--all products which originate in tropical areas could be well received there.

[Question] Mr Minister, how soon do you estimate trade relations with the PRC will be stabilized or made official?

[Answer] I would say in about 6 months--trade relations in (?less than) 6 months.

COALITION SAYS SEVEN LABOR LEADERS ARRESTED

PA151200Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0239 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 14 Dec (EFE)--Political leaders of the Colombian Leftist Coalition [Coalicion Izquierdista Colombiana] today denounced the abuses carried out by the secret police (F-2) against the laboring class, noting that seven leaders were arrested during the week and that their whereabouts are unknown. A committee of the leftist coalition reported the situation to President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala during a visit to San Carlos Palace.

According to reports, one university professor and presidents of labor unions are among those arrested. A spokesman of the movement said that the arrests were made at the homes of the labor leaders. He also announced the disappearance of the wives of two labor leaders and a daughter of one of the couples. Military and police sources have maintained complete silence regarding the case.

GOVERNMENT ELIMINATES NINE BORDER CHECKPOINTS

PA150137Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2346 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 14 Dec (AFP)--The Colombian Government officially announced here today that nine checkpoints on the border with Venezuela will be eliminated with the goal of promoting the development of tourism. According to Raimundo Angulo, manager of the National Tourist Corporation, only three checkpoints--in the towns of Paraguachon, Buritica and Rioancho--will be retained. It was stated that this measure will bring about a greater flow of Venezuelan tourists to Colombia.

CUBAN FOREIGN TRADE MISSION ARRIVES

PA140448Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The third most important man in Cuba's foreign trade policy arrived in Colombia today to make separate contacts with the government and the private sector. He is Michael Vasquez, director of the Latin American division of the Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry, who arrived in Bogota at the head of an official delegation to increase trade.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN DEBT CEILING--Bogota--The Colombian Government authorized tonight an increase in its foreign debt ceiling to $6 billion by enacting the corresponding law. [Text] [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA]

BUDGET DEFICITS--Bogota--A treasury deficit of 3.298 billion pesos was reported by Colombia's decentralized institutes. Their financial operations are supervised by the National Comptroller's Office. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Dec 78 PA]

GOVERNMENT MINISTER APPOINTED MILITARY ATTACHE

PA142214Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Raul Zambrano report from the press office at the National Palace in Quito--live]

[Text] Regarding statements made by presidential candidate Sixto Duran Ballen that Government Minister Col Bolivar Jarrin is destined for another post, Rear Adm Victor Hugo Garces Pozo, secretary general of public administration, has noted that, according to military regulations, Col Bolivar Jarrin is qualified to fill the post of military attache abroad, particularly because of his seniority within the army. This appointment was made several months ago, with Washington D.C. his destination, where he is to replace Gen Richeliu Levoyer. The position has been vacant ever since General Levoyer returned to the country's ground forces. The official spokesman concluded by stating that the army command and the Supreme Council of Government have decided to change Colonel Jarrin's functions in view of the fact that he has been in charge of the juridical restructuring plan.

[Announcer] Thank you, Paul Zambrano, who has brought us this scoop from the National Palace, revealing the imminent departure of the government minister from that post as announced by the secretary general of public administration.

Appointment Denied

PA150304Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 14 Dec (AFP)--The general secretariat of public administration denied today that Government Minister Gen Bolivar Jarrin will be removed from office and given another military assignm nt. The explanation was made by Rear Adm Victor Hugo Garces, chief of that office and official government spokesman, in reply to a report published in the Quito newspaper EL TIEMPO. In that report, rightist presidential candidate Sixto Duran Ballen said that the political leaders "had requested the removal of General Jarrin, knowing that he has been given another military assignment."

STUDENTS WOUNDED AT GUAYAQUIL UNIVERSITY 14 DEC

PA152014Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1813 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 15 Dec (AFP)--Two students of the University of Guayaquil were wounded by gunshots during a student clash at the school of medicine Thursday night, it was reported here today. A group of 10 armed persons broke into the university premises, opened fire and took down a newspaper posted on the wall which showed photographs of activist Guillermo Mendez, presumed accomplice on Saturday night [as received] in the attack that killed political leader Abdon Calderon. The intruders caused panic among the students. Gustavo Torres and Hector Jaramillo were hit by bullets during the student's rush to leave their classrooms.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL RECOGNIZES LIBERAL PARTY FACTION

PA172253Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Quito--The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has recognized the legitimacy of the Liberal Party leadership headed by Dr Ignacio Hidalgo. The announcement was made by Dr Gustavo Chavez. The resolution was approved unanimously during Thursday's session but was announced yesterday. The tribunal decision thus denies the faction headed by Dr Adolfo Callejas the right of using the name of Liberal Party.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S STAND ON CUBAN REFUGEES UNKNOWN

PA162159Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The international solidarity institutions know nothing about the president-elect's plans for the Cuban refugees. To date, Luis Herrera Campins has made no statement in regard to these matters. For his part, President Carlos Andres Perez reiteated that Venezuela will grant facilities to all Cubans wishing to come to our country. As is known, some 400 refugees are entering the United States monthly as a result of the new policy announced by President Fidel Castro.

RELEASED CUBAN REFUGEES TO ARRIVE 'SHORTLY'

PA160115Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Nearly 200 Cuban refugees released by President Fidel Castro will arrive in Caracas shortly. The group is part of the 3,000 Cubans released by the Cuban Government. About 20 Cuban refugees, members of a group released on the island, are said to be in our capital already. It has also been learned that the Jose Marti group is trying to raise money in order to aid the Cuban exiles who are coming to Venezuela.

CUBAN EMBASSY HOSTS FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR SANTAMARIA

FL151214Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban Embassy in Venezuela last night hosted a farewell reception for Haydee Santamaria, director of the Casa de Las Americas. During her stay in Venezuela at the invitation of the Caracas Atheneum, Haydee Santamaria has held cordial talks with Venezuela's President-elect Luis Herrera Campins at his private residence. She has also met with other political and cultural personalities of that South American country, visited various cultural institutions and exchanged experiences with Venezuelan intellectuals.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE

PA171741Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1554 GMT 17 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 17 Dec (AFP)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said here today that Chile and Argentina should rule out an armed confrontation and seek "a rational path of negotiation" concerning the Beagle Channel dispute. "War prolongs conflicts but does not resolve them" the Venezuelan chief diplomat stated. He added that he is concerned and disturbed by the news being received from the southern part of the continent.

The foreign minister said that Argentina filed charges against Chile with the U.N. Security Council, which he considers to be an indication that the conflict "could give way to action."

Consalvi added that a confrontation between Latin American countries "would be very serious and would encourage resentments and revive old differences."

He expressed hope that Argentina and Chile will seek a rational path of negotiation because war prolongs conflicts but does not resolve them. "The primary goal of intelligent mediation should be to achieve a bilateral commitment to rule out the possibility of armed confrontation. War preparations that are in progress--as they seem to be in both countries--do not create the best climate for achieving rational compromises," the Venezuelan foreign minister concluded.

COSTA RICA

RADIO MONUMENTAL REPORTS SANDINIST OFFENSIVE UNDERWAY

PA151840Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1820 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The Sandinist guerrillas have announced that the great Christmas and New Year's offensive to depose General Somoza and install a democratic government of national coalition at Tiscapa Hill began today. A report received by this newscast indicates that the Sandinists have launched simultaneous attacks on the border with Honduras, the border area with Costa Rica, in Managua and in the area of Leon.

Close to Costa Rica, the southern Benjamin Zeledon Front is led by commander Eden Pastora, German Pomares and Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo.

The central Camilo Ortega Front is fighting close to Managua led by commanders of Sandinist factions which have joined together to launch this offensive against Somoza.

The northern Carlos Fonseca Amador Front is attacking the Somozist guard near the Honduran border. These columns are led by commanders Henry Ruis of the (?Populist) faction and Daniel Ortega Saavedra of the Tertiary faction..

The western Rigoberto Lopez Perez Front is fighting along the Pacific coast under the leadership of chiefs of the three Sandinist factions: the Tertiary, (?Populist) and Marxist-Leninist [word indistinct].

The Sandinist plan calls for simultaneous insurrections in cities such as Chinandega, Esteli, Leon, Masaya, Matagalpa, Jinotega, Granada, Rivas, Nandaime and Managua. The strategy is to create numerous battlefronts so the Somozist guard will be dispersed and provide weak flanks for the advance of a pincer movement which seeks to imprison General Somoza in his own Bunker, the fortress in which he has sought protection, on Tiscapa Hill.

Violent Fighting in Rivas

PA151807Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1735 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] The most violent fighting in recent days broke out at 1050 this morning in Nicaragua's southern region near the border with Costa Rica.

According to reports we have received directly from Penas Blancas, Sandinist forces launched an attack with heavy arms to decimate the enemy. The National Guard was taken by surprise. Actually, very little information has been received from the region, but it was indicated that heavy fighting is going on. Bombing and shooting can be heard in the Penas Blancas border area.

The city of Rivas, located in the department of the same name, with a population of 50,000, is some 35 km from the Penas Blancas border area. According to information obtained by Noticias Monumental, guerrilla columns are entering through the (?Zapotillo) area, a mountainous region in the strip of land comprising the isthmus of Rivas Department. The Somozist National Guard has sent squads [commandos] from the basic infantry training school, a military school, into the department. The head of the school is Somoza's son.

SPORADIC FSLN ATTACKS REPORTED BY RADIO RELOJ

PA160408Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has resumed its activities in Nicaragua with sporadic attacks and clashes. Reports have been received that serious clashes have taken place a few kilometers from the city of Rivas, but neither the National Guard nor the FSLN have reported casualties as yet.

We have learned that the situation is normal in the area of Los Chiles and Penas Blancas.

According to the brief reports received, at least 30 National Guard members have fallen while fighting in several towns located near Rivas.

According to our correspondent in Managua, the attacks on banks and shops have continued in Managua and other communities, such as Leon. The situation has remained complicated but is not as critical as it was in September.

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON REPORTED CLASHES

PA161416Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1317 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 16 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Reports by Costa Rican Civil Guard officers indicate that loud explosions were heard near the border with Nicaragua on the side of the neighboring country on Friday morning until 1400 (2000 GMT).

Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria told ACAN-EFE last night that available reports indicate that fighting apparently took place in Nicaragua near the border yesterday.

It is rumored that an injured Nicaraguan crossed into Costa Rican territory but the report has not been confirmed, the official indicated.

Regarding government reports published in Managua on alleged clashes between Sandinist guerrillas and the Costa Rican Civil Guard in Costa Rica, Echeverria said that those reports are false. "Everything has been calm along the border, at least on the Costa Rican side, but fighting can be heard coming from the north," the interior minister reported. He said that those rumors are spread "to give the impression that nothing is happening in Nicaragua. The impression that everything is calm in Nicaragua is false," Echeverria stated.

He said that President Anastasio Somoza's report on Costa Rica's alleged military aid to the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) "is also ridiculously false." "Costa Rica has no weapons to give away," he said.

Meanwhile, rumors which circulated on Thursday regarding alleged overflights of Iberia, about 60 km from the borderline, by Nicaraguan Air Force planes are being investigated.

In the same city, hospital officials have been alerted to the possibility of fighting between Sandinist guerrillas and forces loyal to the Managua government. Col Ramon Umana, public force general director, and other high-ranking officers are in the border Province of Guanacaste, where police who have been deployed to the area to insure Costa Ricans' safety are headquartered, a public security spokesman reported.

Meanwhile, in San Jose, several radio stations are assuming that the Sandinist guerrilla organization has launched a new large-scale offensive. This claim has not been confirmed by Costa Rican Government officials.

SANDINISTS, NATIONAL GUARD CLASH AGAIN NEAR BORDER

PA161845Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[By Ricardo Vargas via telephone from La Cruz]

[Text] At this moment an armed clash is underway between the Sandinist Front and the National Guard. The clash started at approximately 0940 this morning and is still raging fiercely about 1 km east and 1 km west of the border with Costa Rica, near the border checkpoint at Penas Blancas.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) is attacking from both sides. This is known about today's attack.

An incident took place last night at the border checkpoint of Los Mojones, in the west along the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua in the area adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. There, FSLN forces attacked the National Guard post last night at approximately 2200. It has been reported that the National Guard garrison [galeron] there was set on fire but the attack was repelled and ended at approximately 2400.

At the border point of Penas Blancas, the problem continues because the attack is at its peak and at the border [word indistinct] immigration, the agencies and so forth have already been evacuated from Penas Blancas, as well as all personnel working there. Only a few remain but [words indistinct] but are trying to prevent the entry of [word indistinct] the same as the Civil Guard of any person wounded or any kind of automobile or person. Similarly, the Red Cross is massed here at La Cruz at the Red Cross general headquarters because the Costa Rican Civil Guard is not allowing it to work at the border to prevent the entry of wounded Sandinists or any individuals not connected with the Costa Rican Government.

That is all in regard to the situation at the northern border. Here, at the northern border and principally at the border town of La Cruz there is a climate of insecurity. These events have placed the town at a standstill because [words indistinct] much movement as it is not known what will happen or when this is going to end.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL REPORTS NICARAGUAN AIR INCURSION

PA161935Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Interview with Edwin Arce, administrator of customs on the northern border--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin Arce recording] At this moment, the Nicaraguan Air Force has just appeared at the scene of the incidents. Up to now, there had been no Nicaraguan planes over the area, but now one plane has flown over the customs office, on national territory.

Fighting is now heard closer than it was earlier this morning. The shooting is heard now about 500 meters from the customs outpost. The residents of the area have been evacuated, the Nicaraguans to the Rio [name indistinct] and the Costa Ricans to La Cruz. [end recording]

Asked if the situation at this moment is tense, Mr Arce said: [Begin recording] I consider the present situation quite tense because it has been necessary to evacuate personnel from the area. [end recording]

Asked if the planes are now or have been flying constantly over national territory, he said: [Begin recording] As I said at the beginning, it is the first time the Nicaraguan Air Force has appeared. There is no doubt in my opinion that the plane has flown over the national territory. [end recording]

Asked if there had been any casualties, he said: [Begin recording] Not yet, because as I told you at the beginning, the fighting is apparently not taking place over the highway, but rather on the sides, perhaps 500 meters or 1 km away from the highway. In the event of casualties, they would not be brought over the highway, but would be taken into the mountains. [end recording]

Asked if a noise heard in the background was gunfire, he said: [Begin recording] What you are hearing now is machinegun fire. [end recording]

Asked if everybody has been evacuated--for the information of relatives here in San Jose--he said: [Begin recording] The custom agents and the administrative personnel were evacuated to La Cruz. Right now, the only persons remaining here on the Costa Rican border are a couple of employees and myself. We are arranging to take the remaining vehicles here to a safe place. Probably in another half hour there will be nobody here. [end recording]

Mr Arce said that there have been no National Guardsmen seen on the Nicaraguan sector because visibility is limited on the Costa Rican side of the highway. He added, however, that in view of the shooting, it could be considered that there are a good number in the area.

SANDINIST-CIVIL GUARD CLASHES DENIED BY INTERIOR MINISTER

PA171537Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 17 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Costa Rican Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria has stated that the Costa Rican Civil Guard is continuing its combing operations in the northern area in an attempt to keep out Sandinists, but that at no time have there been clashes with the guerrillas. The minister reiterated that according to reports submitted to our authorities, the Sandinists had in fact attacked Nicaraguan National Guard posts yesterday on the Nicaraguan side.

Meanwhile, a young woman guerrilla, between 18 and 19 years of age, who had been wounded in the recent confrontations with the National Guard in Nicaraguan territory, disappeared from La Cruz as soon as she had been treated by doctors, according to a resident of the community. The young woman had reportedly sustained wounds in the leg from bomb fragments. After the wounds were treated, she left the hospital, apparently accompanied by two young men who were also presumed to be guerrillas.

The branch of the Social Security hospital in La Cruz has stated that wounded guerrillas are not being treated because the guerrillas reportedly have difficulty in removing wounded persons from Costa Rica.

PROLETARIAN FACTION ISSUES COMMUNIQUE REJECTING PLEBISCITE

PA170108Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1736 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 16 Dec (AFP)--The Proletarian faction of the Sandinist Front issued a press communique today rejecting the holding of a plebiscite to solve the Nicaraguan political crisis. We reject the plebiscite because Somozism in power is incompatible with any election process, the Sandinists said. They added that the acceptance of the plebiscite by Somoza and the Broad Opposition Front does not mean an immediate solution to the crisis.

A plebiscite on whether Gen Anastasio Somoza will remain in power was proposed 2 months ago by a mediation commission composed of U.S., Guatemalan and Dominican representatives at the initiative of the United States. In rejecting the proposal, the Sandinists are reaffirming their demands for complete political freedom, an immediate end to repression, the dissolution of the National Guard (Nicaraguan Army) and an end to imperialist intervention in Nicaragua's internal affairs and are reaffirming other measures, such as their determination to continue the armed struggle to overthrow Somoza.

INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS OAS REPORT 'REVEALS NOTHING'

PA161639Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose--Clashes have been reported in Leon, Esteli, Managua and throughout Nicaragua, indicating that the announced [Sandinist] offensive is underway.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria pointed out that the report submitted by the OAS commission fails to indicate the site where the incidents took place or how they occurred. In other words, it reveals nothing, he said.

Interior Minister Echeverria yesterday called a meeting of the ambassadors to provide them with detailed information gathered by the Costa Rican Government.

It was learned that the Costa Rican ambassador to the OAS will submit a report to that organization on Monday. Costa Rica will file an urgent request for OAS observers to visit the scene of the incidents.

Interior Minister Echeverria said that the report submitted by the OAS commission that visited Nicaragua and Costa Rica is eclectic, since it includes only what suited it.

NO SANDINISTS FOUND DURING INTERIOR MINISTER'S TOUR

PA151445Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The (?tour) conducted by the interior minister and newsmen through the northern border area (?ended) yesterday afternoon. It was proved that there are no Sandinist camps in the area.

The remnants of a camp that had been set up over a month ago were found on Friday. During yesterday's tour, the remnants of a target range and a camp that had been dismantled were found. However, not more than 50 persons had lived there. Thus, PRENSA LIBRE's report of 5,000 Sandinists in camps located in Guanacaste was again disproved.

BRIEFS

ALTERNATE MARITIME ROUTE--The Ruiz Izaguirre shipping company placed into operation the alternate maritime route between El Salvador and Costa Rica on 8 December. A ship with room for 30 trucks and 25 automobiles is making the trip from Punta Ruca to Cuajiniquil twice a week. The service has been started in view of the risk involved in traveling by land through Nicaragua. [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 10 Dec 78 p 44A PA]

NICARAGUA

NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNIQUE REPORTS ATTACK ON BORDER POST

PA161911Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Communique No 81, General Headquarters of the Nicaraguan National Guard, Managua, 16 December 1978]

[Text] The Legal and Public Relations Office of the Nicaraguan National Guard informs the citizenry that National Guard patrols at Penas Blancas, (?attempting to prevent) elements belonging to the international terrorist brigades which have their shelters in Costa Rican territory from invading Nicaraguan territory, have reported that at 0945 today shots from high-powered weapons and mortars were heard and the shells fell inside Costa Rican territory [as heard] approximately 200 meters from the border at El Valle farm. (?According to the direction) of the mortar fire, the shelling came from somewhere behind Costa Rica's customs house.

At 0600 several shots were fired from Costa Rican territory, (?according to) the patrols at Penas Blancas. No casualties have been reported on the side of the National Guard, which remains vigilant along the border.

[Signed] Aquiles Aranda Escobar, commander [words indistinct], chief of the Legal and Public Relations Office of the National Guard

Further on Penas Blancas Attack

PA161948Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1914 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Dec (AFP)--A rocket attack from Costa Rican territory was launched today against troops guarding the border outpost of Nicaragua in the Penas Blancas sector, it was officially reported here.

The chief of information of the Nicaraguan Army, Col Aquiles Aranda, pointed out that the attack with rockets and other heavy weapons came from a place located some 200 meters inside Costa Rican territory. Aranda added that the attack originated from a farm known as "El Valle" and the Costa Rican border outpost.

The Nicaraguan colonel said that the farm has been occupied for some time by [Sandinist National Liberation Front] groups. He did not accuse them directly of provoking these attacks, however.

At 1200 hours (1800 GMT), a press correspondent reported that shooting still continued in the Penas Blancas sector.

He also reported that the civilian population had been evacuated to La Virgen, a town 70 km from the border.

There has been no report, however, on whether the attack with rockets and other heavy weapons, as announced by the Nicaraguan Army, caused any damage at Penas Blancas or any casualties among troops or civilians.

According to unofficial reports, traffic has been closed at La Virgen to and from the border.

Nicaragua had closed its border with Costa Rica 2 days ago to avoid incidents, according to a government communique.

The measure was adopted by the Nicaraguan authorities in view of rumors about fighting on the border.

The Nicaraguan Government pointed out that the clashes involved Sandinist and Costa Rican forces.

The Costa Rican Government, however, issued another communique claiming that the fighting involved Sandinists and members of the Nicaraguan National Guard.

National Guard Commander Comments

PA162217Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2142 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Dec (LATIN)--Gen Gonzalo Evertz, commander of the southern region, told LATIN at 1330 that no large-scale invasion of Nicaraguan territory has taken place so far. The general conveyed this information via telephone from Rivas, a town near the border with Costa Rica.

[General Evertz noted:] "However, they are attacking us. There is a burst of fire from Costa Rican territory about every 15 minutes. They fire five or six times with a submachine gun at the Nicaraguan customs building in Penas Blancas and then there is silence. Approximately 15 minutes later they open fire again."

Evertz said that the shots are coming from approximately 300 meters inside Costa Rican territory. "We do not know," General Evertz added, "how the Costa Rican authorities--who should control their territory--allow such things." "The National Guard has not returned the fire but it is prepared to take action in the event that they cross the border," the general stated.

Evertz said that an armed group of approximately 15 persons encroached 40 meters into Nicaraguan territory yesterday evening and set fire to a small house belonging to the Nicaraguan National Guard in Los Mojones, on the Pacific coast.

RIVAS COMMANDER REPORTS FURTHER SANDINIST ATTACKS

PA171926Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1839 GMT 17 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Rivas, Nicaragua, 17 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--New actions by the Sandinist Front which took place in southern Nicaragua yesterday, Saturday, left one dead and three injured.

Gen Gonzalo Evertz, commander of the southern military zone of the Nicaraguan National Guard, told ACAN-EFE correspondents here today that a Sandinist group entered from Costa Rica and attacked a launch which was engaged in coastal trading on Lake Nicagagua. The Sandinists captured the owner of the launch, Heriberto Paisano, and later killed him in the area known as Las Canas.

Evertz also reported that four individuals, presumably members of the guerrilla organization, last night attacked the guardpost at Potosi, a small town located only 6 kms from here, close to the Costa Rican border.

The post commander, Sgt Francisco Hernandez, a military aide and a civilian were injured in the attack.

The Rivas commander believes that the group came from the Nicaraguan capital after stealing a taxi owned by Bernardo Vargas to carry out their crime. The taxi was subsequently recovered and taken to headquarters.

The authorities were unable to capture any of the insurgents, who also cut telegraph lines to Potosi and left the telegraph office in disarray before fleeing.

General Evertz reiterated that since 1400 (2000 GMT) yesterday, when machinegun fire was heard from the Costa Rican side, the border area has remained calm until this morning.

The officer said that the so-called "international brigade" of the Sandinist Front has not dared to engage the National Guard in combat, but has instead remained on the other side of the border.

"We know that they have modern weapons such as FAL rifles, new bazookas and mortars, but they have not yet been brave enough to invade Nicaraguan territory and launch a large-scale attack," the commander of the government troops said.

Evertz said that this brigade consists of approximately 300 men who are well equipped and have sufficient ammunition. He said that 75 percent are Nicaraguans and the others are Venezuelan, Panamanian, Costa Ricans and presumably Cubans.

Their leaders, he said, are not on the frontlines, but instead are in Liberia or San Jose.

The National Guard office said that between September and December the Nicaraguan National Guardsmen who are guarding the border with Costa Rica suffered only nine casualties, including one fatality. He said that the National Guard troops do not include a single soldier of another nationality and that they are all "pure natives."

"My soldiers' morale is very high, and the guerrillas who have tried to cause disruptions have failed. The soldiers remain vigilant, alert and prepared for combat at any moment," Evertz said while acknowledging that the civilian population has become nervous.

Asked whether the tension on the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica will continue to exist indefinitely, the general answered that this tension will end when President Rodrigo Carazo Odio's government decides to eliminate the havens in Costa Rica for mercenaries and revolutionary elements who seek to overthrow Gen Anastasio Somoza's government.

COSTA RICAN-NICARAGUAN BORDER REOPENED 17 DECEMBER

PA172122Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2048 GMT 17 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Jose, 17 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The border with Nicaragua was reopened today, Sunday, by Costa Rican officials after yesterday's fighting near the border on the Nicaraguan side between Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) guerrillas and the Nicaraguan Army.

This morning dozens of trucks [furgones] began to move north. Those that had remained in Nicaragua crossed to the south. Thus the area returned to normalcy.

Border area residents told ACAN-EFE today that they had heard no noise from new clashes in Nicaragua.

The FSLN has not issued a "war bulletin" on Saturday's actions.

SENATE APPROVES POLITICAL AMNESTY DECREE

PA152009 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1936 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Dec (LATIN)--It has been reported officially that the Senate today approved the decree on amnesty for political and related crimes, thus paving the way for the release of all political prisoners, the end of persecutions and the return of exiles.

The decree now needs only to be ratified by President Anastasio Somoza--which will be done in the next few hours--and to be published in the official GAZETTE, which is expected tomorrow.

The amnesty is the second of the three conditions set by the Broad Opposition Front for beginning talks with the government party. The first condition was the lifting of the state of siege, which the government ordered last week. The third, still pending condition is abrogation of the legislation which controls radio and television information.

SOMOZA SIGNS AMNESTY LAW, CALLS FOR UNITY

PA160219Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2336 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Speech by Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle at ceremony held at the conference room of the Information and Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic on the occasion of signing the amnesty bill--live]

[Text] Fellow citizens: It is with great satisfaction that I place my signature on this amnesty law document today, a document which from the moment of its publication in the GAZETTE will result in the unity of the Nicaraguan family. This unity has been seriously impaired by the developments of the past 14 months.

This moment, gentlemen, calls for reflection. With this amnesty, with the upcoming revision of the radio and television code and with the other political reforms carried out by my government, I firmly believe that I have fully satisfied all the conditions so that the differences that exist among Nicaraguans may be resolved among ourselves by lawful means rather than through the use of the wepons that were so criminally supplied by the governments of Venezuela, Cuba, Panama and Costa Rica.

All those Nicaraguans who were convinced by foreign governments and rulers that arms and subversion were the only solution to Nicaragua's problems can now return to normalcy and resolve our differences by means of an electoral struggle, the only type of struggle permitted among brothers.

Now, protected by this amnesty, all Nicaraguans can come out of hiding and self-imposed exile to fight in a lawful manner for those principles which they may regard as beneficial to the nation. Now they can return and devote their energies to mobilizing the Nicaraguan people in a lawful manner. They can explain their political platforms so that by means of the people's vote, it can be decided what political system of ideology will rule Nicaragua in the future.

I feel a great satisfaction over the approval of this amnesty law by the chambers of deputies and senators because I believe that all those Nicaraguans who were deceived by the agitation campaign against my government--clearly of foreign inspiration--will now be able to reflect on their actions and move along lawful paths in order to resolve our differences.

Aside from permitting so many Nicaraguans to return to normalcy, may this amnesty law also serve to promote reflection and meditation on the fact that certain gentlemen with (?immoderate) power ambitions who are in collusion with foreign rulers are pushing our people toward another bloodbath.

May this amnesty law also serve to promote the reaffirmation that the only means of obtaining power is through the Nicaraguan people's vote and not through the use of the criminal bullets supplied by foreign governments. [applause]

I solemnly promise here that from this day on I will make all efforts so that all Nicaraguans may fully enjoy their citizenship rights, as guaranteed by our constitution. I would like to make here a patriotic appeal to the National Guard, to which we owe the country's peace and tranquility, to accompany me in reestablishing trust so neither those of us who rule nor those who are ruled will continue to violate the rights of Nicaraguans, which we have wanted so much to reestablish.

To those Nicaraguans who patriotically wish to lay dorm their arms and take refuge under this amnesty law, I invite you to join in the civil and democratic struggle that lies ahead. Thank you very much. [applause]

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORTS PRISONERS' RELEASE

PA151854Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1639 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Jose Esteban Gonzalez, national coordinator of the permanent human rights commission in Nicaragua, told ACAN-EFE today that about 200 to 300 prisoners have been released in the past few days. Gonzalez said that the government is releasing them so that, when the amnesty approved by the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday enters into force, the number of political prisoners will not seem very large.

Gonzalez thinks the amnesty will apply to about 800 persons considered "liberals."

The human rights commission has a list of over 2,000 arrested in the past few months, but many of them will rather be found to be missing or dead, the coordinator said.

In a recent press interview, President Anastasio Somoza said there were about 200 political prisoners.

Those released in the past few days, Gonzalez felt, are chiefly young men arrested on mere suspicion or for having distributed opposition flysheets. "These are the ones being arrested every day," Gonzalez added.

40 Political Prisoners Released

PA170359Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2011 GMT 16 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--A total of 40 political prisoners were released in Managua today. Col Bernardino Larios, leader of a conspiracy within the Nicaraguan Army, was among them. It was reported that the purpose of this conspiracy was the violent overthrow of Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza.

This group of political prisoners was released almost simultaneously with the publication of the amnesty decree in the official GAZETTE dated today, Saturday. With the publication of the decree, it was converted into a law of the republic.

The majority of the prisoners were released from the jails of the Managua police headquarters, under the jurisdiction of Col Nicolas Valle Salinas. Many relatives of the political prisoners arrived at the police headquarters to await their release.

All the soldiers arrested last August under similar charges were also released along with Colonel Larios.

Nicaraguan Press and Information Secretary Rafael Cano said that there are no more than 500 political prisoners but the permanent human rights commission says that the number of prisoners is closer to 2,000.

In view of the fact that the amnesty law became effective today, it is expected that a massive release of political prisoners will take place within the next few hours.

GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION HOLD DIRECT TALKS ON PLEBISCITE

PA170203Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0111 GMT 17 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Dec (LATIN)--The first "direct negotiation" between the opposition and the government, sponsored by the diplomatic mediation commission, have surprisingly taken place.

According to sources close to the government, an agenda for the negotiations was approved at the meeting in order to begin discussions on the objective of the plebiscite. This is in line with requests from the Broad Opposition Front (FAO). The two parties, however, have stated completely opposing points of view with regard to the objective of the plebiscite.

While the Liberal (government) representatives favor the 2 December proposal of the mediation commission, the FAO representatives maintained their original position and rejected the Liberals' proposal.

The 2 December proposal states that whatever the result of the plebiscite, a national unity government will be created and one-third of its members will be from the FAO, one-third will be from the Liberals and one-third will be independents.

The FAO maintained its position that if Somoza loses the plebiscite, he must resign and leave the country along with his relatives who occupy military posts so that the FAO may form a government.

According to the FAO proposal, the provisional government that will emerge in the event Somoza loses the plebiscite will be controlled by a state council composed of 32 members, 2 for each of the FAO's 15 organizations and 2 for the government's Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN).

The council will appoint a government junta, Congress will be dissolved and the council will exercise legislative functions.

The meeting, which was held at the Guatemalan Embassy, was attended by the three members of the mediation commission: William Bowdler for the United States, Ramon Emilio Jiminez for the Dominican Republic and Alfredo Obiols for Guatemala. The FAO was represented by Alfonso Callejas, of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, and Luis Sanchez Sancho, of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party. Conservative Party delegate Rafael Cordova Rivas did not attend because he is not in Managua. The ruling PLN was represented by Foreign Minister Julio Quintana, Minister-Mayor of Managua Orlando Montenegro and Alceo Tablada, the party's secretary general. The private sector was represented by Manuel Jose Guerra, president of the Nicaraguan Development Institute, and Leonel Arguello Ramirez, president of the Superior Council of Private Enterprise.

No church representatives were present because the Episcopal Conference had not met to consider its participation as an observer. The Presbyterian Council of Managua, headed by Managua Archbishop Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, decided that he only represented the clergy of Managua, and consequently, the decision must be made by the Episcopal Conference.

The members of the mediation commission told the two delegations that they were interested in completing the negotiations in 8 days, before Christmas, so that the process for the plebiscite can begin on 1 January. Mediation commission sources said that much has been accomplished with the new stance of the Liberal delegates, who have accepted a plebiscite to decide on the resignation of President Anastasio Somoza and are no longer insisting on holding elections for a constituent assembly in case Somoza loses the plebiscite.

The Liberals have accepted the proposal of the mediators so that regardless of the results of the plebiscite, a government will be formed whereby the opposition, the government and the independent sector will each have one-third representation in the government. However, the FAO maintains that such a government would be impractical because the FAO and the PLN would end up with a 50-percent representation since the independents would have to be accepted by both sides.

Robelo said that the FAO will do everything possible to find a solution through the international mediation commission but that if this is not accomplished, it will resume its struggle against Somoza, always through the use of civic methods. The next meeting between the opposition and the government is slated for Monday.

PRESIDENT SOMOZA COMMENTS ON UN RESOLUTION

PA170219Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0145 GMT 17 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 16 Dec (EFE)--Nicaragua warned tonight that it will not permit United Nations interference in its internal affairs and that it was not frightened because 85 countries had signed a resolution deploring the violation of human rights in Nicaragua. Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza made these statements in a telephone interview with the Caracol broadcasting network. In reply to a query about whether he was worried by the UN resolution, the Nicaraguan president said: "Naturally I am worried; don't you see that it is a spokesman for global propaganda?"

Somoza added that he considered the UN resolution to be very interesting, principally because countries such as Colombia joined communist Cuba in censuring a country, which as Nicaragua, is not communist. The Nicaraguan president again criticized Costa Rica for harboring Sandinist guerrillas on its territory and said that now the members of those same groups are turning against the Costa Rican people.

PLN POSTPONES DATE OF LIBERAL ELECTION

PA151314Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0340 GMT 15 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Dr Alceo Tablada Solis, secretary of the national board of directors of the Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN], has reported that it has been decided to postpone the date of the election of full and alternate members of the PLN. The Liberal election had originally been scheduled for Sunday, 3 June 1979. That date is considered premature, and a postponement is in the interests of the party. Therefore, the PLN national board of directors decided to postpone the election to a date that will be made known in due time.

BODIES FOUND IN CHILEAN MINE ARE SUBJECT OF COMMENT

FL160257Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Dec 78 FL

[Armando Lopez Junco commentary]

[Text] The secret cemetery discovered at Lonquen some 40 KM from Santiago, the capital of Chile, constitutes a dramatic example of the tragic situation from which that South American country is suffering 5 years after the overthrow and assassination of President Salvador Allende. The discovery occurs precisely on the eve of the week in which the world will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the UN proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights--a topic which has been a publicity slogan [in English] of U. S. President Jimmy Carter.

The macabre finding was at an abandoned lime mine shaft. Up to the moment the remains of at least 27 people have been found, including 14 bodies and 13 skulls of individuals who were killed about 2 or 3 years ago. This finding results from the statement from Catholic Bishop Enrique Alvear to the Supreme Court of Justice. The bishop found out about the existence of this secret cemetery through the confession of one of his faithful whose name he refused to disclose. The discovery of the secret cemetery in the lime mine shaft confirms the repeated denunciations made by the Chilean anti-fascist resistence in regards to the fate of a large part of the political prisoners who have disappeared since the Pinochet military junta took over power and assassinated the Popular Unity leaders. It is estimated that the number of those who have disappeared as a result of the National Intelligence Directorate (DINA), which today has been turned into the National Information Center (CNI), approaches 2,500 people.

The Chilean bishopric has up to the moment proved in detail 618 cases of people who have disappeared, and they have delivered lists of these people to the junta, which to date has not given any answer or explanation on the existence or location of these persons.

Naturally stories have not been lacking, which have been issued by the regime through its propaganda organs. The daily EL MERCURIO, for example, has said that the bodies discovered are of antisocial elements. It has also been said, and this was the first story circulated, that the cemetery at the mine shaft could have been one belonging to primitive inhabitants of the region. This has been definitively discarded by the fact that several of the bodies were found with their hands bound with wire, showing signs of large caliber bullet holes and some having been gagged.

This recalls one of the most prominent cases of a kidnapping and disappearance of a person as a result of DINA--that of the leader of the Chilean Communist Party, Marta Ugarte. Here in this photo we see her with a floral bouquet at a cultural ceremony during the government of President Allende. Her body appeared on a beach in Valparaiso on 11 September 1976, with bullet holes in her body, her ankles and wrists bruised and her neck broken by a wire. The regime's press tried to present the case as a crime of passion, but the identity of the victim was finally revealed.

And the coincidence of the discovery at the lime mine shaft and the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights at the United Nations, which among other things states textually that every individual has the right to life, liberty and security of their persons, is something significant, especially in regards to President Carter and his alleged defense of human rights. According to the Chilean Central Bank, North American banks have granted new credits to the fascist Chilean junta totalling $300 million, to be repaid over 10 years with a 5-year grace period.

And this credit is added to the $2 billion which the United States had already provided to Pinochet between 1974 and 1977. This is the very peculiar way by which President Carter struggles, according to his continual assurances, in defense of human rights.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON IRAQI LEADER'S VISIT

Details on Marti Award

FL151924Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night presented the Jose Marti National Order to Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council and assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at a solemn ceremony held at the Cubanacan reception hall in Havana. Blas Roca Calderio, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the people's government National Assembly, noted the reasons why the high decoration was awarded to the distinguished visitor.

[Begin Roca Calderio recording] Comrade Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers and first secretary of the PCC Central Committee; dear Comrade Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq and assistant secretary general of the national directorate of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; comrades of the delegation accompanying him; comrades all: The Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, presided over by Comrade Fidel Castro, agreed to award you, Comrade Saddam Husayn at-Tikriti, the Jose Marti National Order, the highest decoration awarded by our state, which carries the name of our top national hero and glory of our history. In making this decision, the Council of State has kept in mind your high revolutionary merits and the responsible position you hold under the direction of the dear President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. It also has kept in mind the firm position adopted by the Republic of Iraq under the guidance of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party of which you are assistant secretary general. [This position] has been characterized by anti-imperialism, progressivism and active participation in the nonalined countries movement.

Comrade Saddam Husayn, in just recognition of your revolutionary merits and policy of friendship toward Cuba and solidarity with struggles against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism which the Republic of Iraq follows, our chief and guide, president of the Councils of State and Ministers and first secretary of our Communist Party, Comrade Fidel Castro, on behalf of the people of Cuba, will present you with the prized medal of the Jose Marti National Order. Thank you, very much. [applause] [end recording] [Videotape then shows Castro pinning the medal on Saddam Husayn] [applause]

[Begin recording, Saddam Husayn in Arabic with consecutive Spanish translation] Dear Comrade Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of Ministers; dear comrades of the party Politburo and Central Committee: It is an extraordinary honor for me to receive this decoration as a symbol of the bonds of friendship that unite our two peoples, our two governments and our parties. Since this decoration embodies a history that is so dear to you--to the party leadership as much as for the Cuban people--because it carries the name of the most outstanding and heroic fighter and leader of the Cuban revolution and represents the past and present history, we receive it with great honor and satisfaction as a salient symbol of our friendship, joint forces and common struggles against imperialism, against exploitation and for the well-being of our two peoples and for the well-being of all the world's people. Comrades, again I express my gratitude for this distinction and I wish you and the friendly Cuban people continuous progress and the greatest prosperity. Many thanks. [applause] [end recording]

Isle of Youth, Cienfuegos Toured

FL161323Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Cienfuegos and the Isle of Youth joyfully welcomed the high-level Iraqi delegation led by Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council and assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, who was accompanied by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

Fidel and Husayn were welcomed at the Isle of Youth by representatives of the Pioneers organization and the people of that special municipality. Fidel and the high-level Iraqi delegation immediately toured various areas of economic and educational development in the Isle of Youth. The visitors then went to the Saydi Vieira Dias basic rural secondary school, where Fidel spoke at a ceremony in honor of the Iraqi delegation.

Thereafter, the commander in chief and Saddam Husayn visited Cienfuegos, where thousands of persons gave them a warm welcome. They were received at Jaime Gonzalez airport by provincial party First Secretary Humberto Miguel Fernandez and other members of the provincial bureau. The places toured by Fidel and the Iraqi visitors included the tricontinental bulk sugar terminal, flour mills, livestock feed plant, sprinkler irrigation equipment plant and the construction site of the Guabairo cement plant.

Further Details

FL161420Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1402 GMT 16 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpts] A country is developed by building factories and works like this one and by working as you do. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro made this statement at the cement factory under construction in Guabairo, during his visit yesterday while accompanying Saddam Husayn.

Speaking to the 3,000 workers who had gathered in the yard of the factory to welcome the delegation of the fraternal Iraqi people, our commander in chief said we have worked very hard to gain the right to a future. Fidel referred to the construction workers who already are in Iraq and to those who very soon will leave to help in the building of a highway in that country. He also discussed relations between Cuba and Iraq, asserting that such relations have developed extraordinarily in recent times, not only because of the similarity of political positions but also because of the effort of our dear brother Saddam Husayn.

Addressing the builders of the Guabairo cement factory, Saddam Husayn said the phase of relations that has been covered between Cuba and Iraq has reached a very high level and that this was no coincidence but the result of the similarity of our two revolutions. Saddam Husayn emphasized that the most important point in this similarity of the two revolutions is that the sons of Cuba have made the Cuban revolution and the sons of Iraq have made their own revolution.

Referring to the cement factory workers, the Iraqi leader noted that he felt he had known them before their meeting because he already had seen a people who deserve a future and are worthy of the same trust they have placed in their leaders. We have seen a leadership that deserves this trust and of which you can feel proud, he concluded.

Before going to the city of Cienfuegos, Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro were welcomed with cheers and applause by hundreds of persons gathered on the observation deck and access areas of the airport at Nueva Gerona in the Isle of Youth.

As part of their tour of the Isle of Youth, Saddam Husayn and Fidel visited the Roberto Orestes Moreno pre-university school, where the commander in chief was interested in the youth's studies and productive work. Later the two leaders were welcomed at the Saydi Vieira Dias school for Angolan students, where the commander in chief told them he was happy to visit them. We have been moved, he said, by your beautiful and revolutionary songs. We are quite moved in seeing how you are studying with a patriotic spirit, great love toward other nations and a great internationalist spirit. When we see you, Fidel added, we are encouraged to continue struggling and we think we must struggle much more in this world to eradicate poverty, exploitation, injustice, imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism.

Saddam Husayn Concludes Visit

PA180240Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, has returned to his country after a 5-day official visit to Cuba at the head of a high-level delegation. He was seen off at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana by Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, and First Vice President Raul Castro.

VILMA ESPIN GRANTS INTERVIEW TO 'POLITICAL INFORMATION PROGRAM'

FL151421Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 Dec 78 FL

[Text] On the occasion of the upcoming commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution's triumph, Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] has granted an interview to the "Political Information Program." The highest FMC leader talks about her experiences when the creation of the rebel army was being planned in the Sierra Maestra Mountains.

[Begin Espin recording] I would say that I was privileged to see the emergence of the rebel army from its very beginning, because I participated in the very first meeting of the leaders of the clandestine unit of the movement with Fidel and the comrades of the incipient rebel army held in the Sierra Maestra, even though I was not a leader at the time. For me, this first meeting will be something I will never forget. When we arrived, we found that inexhaustible optimism we have always seen in Fidel, that fervor, that revolutionary flame [grow] to such high intensity that it overwhelmed all of us. In reality, it is true that we felt no pessimism because we had confidence in what would follow, in the struggle. But we were concerned over the situation of the rebel army. Despite there being very few men, despite their not having the necessary weapons, we felt that enormous optimism instilled by Fidel that everything was fine, that everything was going well and that the rebel army would eventually become the victorious army which would finally defeat the tyranny's army and start the revolution in our fatherland. [end recording]

In her interview, Vilma recalled the combatants who gave their lives during the insurrection. [begin recording] The comrades who fell throughout these years, both there in the battles in the mountains, in the battles waged throughout the island during the invasions by Che and Camilo, at the second front where many valuable comrades died, those losses of valuable comrades there and in the cities, such as Frank Pais' death, all of this comes to mind when we think about the revolution's 20th anniversary.

In reality, we think about them with the profound conviction that their lives were not wasted, that everything for which they died has been accomplished and that our people, led by Fidel and our revolution's leaders,have realized everything they dreamed of. [end recording]

Referring to FMC activities marking the 20th anniversary of the revolution's triumph and tasks to be developed by the women's organization next year, Vilma Espin said: [begin recording] On the occasion of the 20th anniversary, the federation will, of course, conduct some special activities as a tribute to those who have fallen and as a tribute to the beginning of the struggle of the rebel army, of the first revolutionaries, some of whom were killed but, mainly as a tribute to the 20th anniversary, the FMC will advance with the greatest possible success each and every one of the points set out in our work plan for the year, which will conclude in December in honor of 1 January. Regarding the new year, we set out a number of goals during the second FMC congress and our party's first congress which have to be fulfilled during the 5-year period and which have been fulfilled year after year. This year, besides the established goals, we propose to accomplish some other tasks in support of the construction of child care centers, which is one of the important goals for women in this 5-year period, and a number of small tasks in cooperation with other plans of the 5-year period, which are not solely FMC plans. [end recording]

The FMC president takes this opportunity afforded by the "Political Information Program" microphones to say: [begin Espin recording] Regarding the Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry's combatants, it is imperative for me to convey a very special message on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of our revolution. We would like to congratulate, very especially, each and every member of our army, our armed forces, who have achieved such extraordinary successes not only protecting our people--as well as the comrades of the Interior Ministry--but also in the extraordinary internationalist tasks which have been accomplished in this 5-year period. We are extraordinarily proud of each and every one of the comrades who, here or wherever they were assigned to carry out their missions in past years--demonstrating the extraordinary quality of our people, of our army, of our combatants--in whatever front they are assigned, successfully carry out their missions. [end recording]

COSTA RICAN LEGISLATORS VISIT HEALTH MINISTRY

FL161325Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Public Health Minister Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz has received at the Public Health Ministry in this capital a delegation composed of deputies of the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly who are visiting our country at the invitation of the people's government National Assembly.

Gutierrez Muniz explained to the Costa Rican deputies the national health system and the administrative and functional structure of the Public Health Ministry. During the meeting the delegation of Costa Rican deputies also was briefed on the eradication of some diseases such as poliomyelitis, diphtheria and malaria.

SUPPORT FOR COSTA RICA, NICARAGUAN 'PATRIOTS' URGED

FL161748Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Dec 78 FL

[Text] United Nations--Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban permanent representative to the United Nations, has called on the international community to give its solidary support to Costa Rica and the Nicaraguan patriots who are fighting against the imposed dynastic tyranny.

Roa was speaking during debates that resulted in the approval of a draft resolution expressing deep concern over the seriousness of the internal situation in Nicaragua and its repercussions on the region's peace and security.

Explaining his vote in favor of the draft resolution, the Cuban ambassador cautioned the General Assembly of the intention, already charged by the Nicaraguan opposition, of maintaining Somozism without Somoza.

SANTAMARIA STOPS IN PANAMA EN ROUTE FROM CARACAS

FL161328Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Haydee Santamaria, director of Casa de las Americas, has met in Panama with Aristides Martinez, director of the Panamanian national institute of culture. During the meeting, which took place during Haydee Santamaria's stopover from Caracas, they exchanged viewpoints on the cultural development of the two countries and matters of mutual interest.

ISO SELECTS CUBA FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENCY

FL151203Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Dec 78 FL

[Text] In London the International Sugar Organization [ISO] has unanimously elected Cuba to its council presidency. Cuba, the leading sugar exporter of the world, was nominated by the Group of Sugar-Exporting Countries of the Organization of American States. During 1979 the president of the council, the highest body in ISO, will be Horacio Tabio York, Cuba's commercial counselor in the British capital, who during the current year served as vice president.

USSR GEOLOGY MINISTER TOURS HOLGUIN PROVINCE

FL151506Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1427 GMT 15 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy, alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR geology minister, has toured Holguin Province. Miguel Cano Blanco, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in the province, accompanied the visitors in the tour of the area of industrial and social development of Holguin. The Soviet geology minister stated that future geological development in Holguin is tied to the creation of a firm base of minerals or raw materials presently existing in the enterprises. [as heard]

The tour of the Soviet minister included the mining-metallurgy development area of Moa and Nicaro and the 60th October revolution anniversary factory of cane harvesters, which was built with USSR aid.

BRIEFS

ANTILLES AUTONOMISTS RECEIVED--Several leaders of autonomist movements in Guadeloupe and Martinique were recently received with considerable cordiality in Havana, where Cuba's support was assured them. Since then, the French Government has taken discreet diplomatic steps vis-a-vis Fidel Castro and the Cuban Government to get Havana to cease encouraging the aforementioned autonomists. [Text] [Paris LE POINT in French 11 Dec 78 p 63 WA]

GUYANA

BURNHAM ASSURES COUNTRY ON NEW CONSTITUTION

FL151550Y Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Forbes Burnham has said that the new constitution being drafted by the Constituent Assembly should translate into fundamental law the conception of human rights which is deemed necessary in the light of Guyana's experience and aspirations.

And he pledged that his government will not be deterred in the pursuit of its socialist objective.

Winding up a series of broadcasts to mark the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the prime minister also assured that the new constitution would not only maintain the fundamental, civil and political rights which are in the present one but broaden the range of rights so as to be reflective of a wider approach.

Cde Burnham said in his message:

On this day 30 years ago, the international community in adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights made an important advance towards a regime of rights for all mankind as had been foreshadowed in the UN Charter.

Our week-long observance of this anniversary has come at a propitious time. We are now engaged through the Constituent Assembly in the process of drafting a new constitution which, among other things, should translate into fundamental law the conception of human rights which we deem necessary in the light of our experience and aspirations.

Respect

The subject of human rights has risen in recent times to a dominant place on the international agenda. This is all to the good. We respect and promote human rights. On the other hand, difficulties and misunderstandings have arisen as a result of attempts to assert narrow sectarian approaches to human rights, approaches which reflect the limited experiences of only sections of the global community.

It must therefore be emphasised that there are many elements to the concept, elements which derive from the perspectives of varying national experiences. Our commitment to a programme of socialist construction in which the co-operative will be [the] major instrument of development, and which has as its objective the creation of a just and egalitarian society, has led us to stress that comprehensive approach to the question of human rights.

Thus it is proposed to maintain in the new constitution not only the fundamental civil and political rights which are in the present one, but to broaden the range of rights so as to be reflective of the wider approach.

Through the new constitution our people will assert all the rights which derive from their dignity as human beings. The constitution will spell out our resolve to create a Guyanese society in which freedom and equality will have concrete meaning. It will emphasise the equality and rights of women. Measures already implemented such as the right to free education from nursery to university will be given the status of a constitutional imperative. The use of land for exploitative purposes will not be permitted as the constitution will insist on one's right to the land one tills, an important measure in the context of our history. The right to work and the opportunity to work, free medical services, security against the hazards of illness and disability, effective maintenance in old age, the provision of adequate housing and so on--all these will be safeguarded in our new constitution.

Freedom

The freedom we speak of is not the freedom to walk the streets without a job, freedom to be hungry, freedom to eke out an old age in penury and want, but that larger freedom which will flow from the right to a full life.

There are some in our midst who have lost their privileged positions as we move inexorably towards the creation of a socialist society. Rather than accept the inevitability of a new order they invoke as part of their survival apparatus a conception of human rights which smacks of the colonial past. The fact that they are free to do this is the best answer to their scurrilous charge that civil and political rights have been curtailed. My government will not be deterred by such clamour from the pursuit of our socialist objectives.

On this anniversary we reaffirm our unwavering commitment at the national and international levels to the establishment of a just order in which human rights will have real meaning for all peoples.

PERU

FAVORABLE OIL PRODUCTION PROSPECTS REPORTED

PA161715Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Dec 78 p 26 PA

[Excerpts] PETROPERU [State Petroleum Agency] will achieve a new production record this year since it became self-supplying in March.

Average daily production for 1978 is approximately 151,000 barrels, which represents an increase of 65.9 percent compared with production in 1977, which totaled 91,000 barrels a day, according to a PETROPERU spokesman.

In October, national oil production totaled (?178,000) barrels a day, 121,000 of which came from the oil fields in the northern jungle. In October 1977 the average daily production was 95,000 barrels.

The increase in overall production will permit PETROPERU to have a surplus of about 30,000 barrels a day for exportation during the first quarter of 1979.

Self-supply and the recovery of exporting-country status are based on the loan contracts signed in 1974 between PETROPERU and the Japanese firms, JPDC [Japanese Power Development Corporation] and JAPECO [?Japan Petroleum Exploration Company].

The first contract for 29.749 billion yen facilitated increased exploration in the northern jungle, drilling more developing-exploitation wells [pozos de explotacion en desarrollo] and bringing the discovered fields to the production stage, linking the production areas (Capirona-Pavayacu-Corrientes and Yanayacu) through a collection system.

The second loan contract, for 68.686 billion yen, served to build the north Peruvian oil pipeline and the port facilities at Bayovar and also promoted national efforts at recovering self-supply capacity, lost in 1963, and the ability to export hydrocarbons and refined products.